

MINUTES OF THE SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE -- MAY 11, 2006

Present: Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Pat Church, Chair; Janet Brown, Harvey Allen, Marianne Lorenzelli, Meg Vickery; Bob Pariso, Acting Superintendent of Public Works

1) Bob had several issues to discuss with the committee.

A) Solid Waste Budget: With tight budgets this year and rising energy costs, it is likely that the cost of stickers for the Transfer Station will have to go up. Most likely, residential stickers will be raised to \$50.00 and commercial up to \$80. Starting on July 1st.

B) The entire DPW budget is very tight as well with higher energy costs and high health insurance, the cost of bulk chemicals is rising as well.

C) June 1st or soon afterwards, the Knights of Columbus will begin building a new office block where the garbage sheds now stand behind in the Boltwood Walk area above the parking garage. This will present a new challenge ; finding a place for the businesses' waste.

2) Minutes from the March meeting were approved, the motion came from Janet and was seconded by Marianne.

3) Harvey discussed his visit to Martin's Farms in Greenfield. Harvey was impressed with Martin's set up and reported that the compost has improved from the schools.

4) Compostable Utensils: Meg volunteered to contact the new person at Chartwells and get costs for using compostable utensils in the lunchrooms. She also agreed to track down grants to off-set the price.

5) Recyclopedias. Susan reported that it is almost complete. Meg said she believed using tabs to easily identify different sections would make the book more user friendly.

6) Susan also reported on her efforts to reach out to UMASS students to encourage them to use the Transfer Station. She placed ads in the Collegian and aired several Public Service Announcements on the UMASS radio station.

7) Trash to Treasure: Susan reported that in the past the DPW has paid for copying fees for the leaflets advertising this event for the Amherst Survival Center. It was decided that the high cost, between \$400-\$500 was more than we could afford this year.

8) Volunteer Opportunity. Susan went over the qualifications of Stan Swiercz who has volunteered to help the SWC with a project of our choice. It was decided that the business survey would be a good project to use his expertise and that he should be invited to the next meeting. Also, Pat and Marianne volunteered to meet with him to brainstorm about how to approach the Business recycling issue.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2006, 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Vickery, clerk pro tem